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July 2009

Regional Economic Indicators

North Central Region

Government of Alberta

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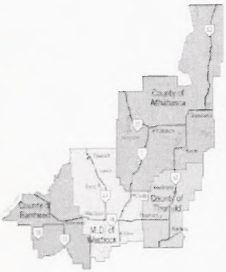

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

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MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES

According to Statistics Canada census data, the major municipality in the North Central Region that gained the most population from 2001 to 2006 was Athabasca with an increase of 6.6% or 160 residents. Over the same period, the major municipality that gained the most residents in the region was Westlock with an increase of 189 residents.

Economic Indicators: North Central Region				
Major Municipalities *	**Status**	**2006 Population**	**2001 Population**	**1996 Population**
Athabasca No. 12, County of	Municipal District	7,587	7,521	7,415
Westlock County	Municipal District	6,966	6,880	6,958
Barrhead No. 11, County of	Municipal District	5,845	5,768	5,870
Westlock	Town	5,008	4,819	4,817
Barrhead	Town	4,209	4,213	4,239
Thorhild No. 7, County of	Municipal District	3,042	3,120	3,077
Athabasca	Town	2,575	2,415	2,313
Swan Hills	Town	1,645	1,807	2,030
Boyle	Village	844	840	802
Clyde	Village	470	491	410
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006				

*** Top ten cities/towns and municipalities in region, based on population from census years.**

Economic Indicators: North Central Region				
	2001 - 2006 (5 Years)		**1996 - 2006 (10 Years)**	
Major Municipalities	**% Change**	**Net Change**	**% Change**	**Net Change**
Athabasca No. 12, County of	0.9%	66	2.3%	172
Westlock County	1.3%	86	0.1%	8
Barrhead No. 11, County of	1.3%	77	-0.4%	(25)
Westlock	3.9%	189	4.0%	191
Barrhead	-0.1%	(4)	-0.7%	(30)
Thorhild No. 7, County of	-2.5%	(78)	-1.1%	(35)
Athabasca	6.6%	160	11.3%	262
Swan Hills	-9.0%	(162)	-19.0%	(385)
Boyle	0.5%	4	5.2%	42
Clyde	-4.3%	(21)	14.6%	60
Source: Compilations by Alberta Finance and Enterprise				

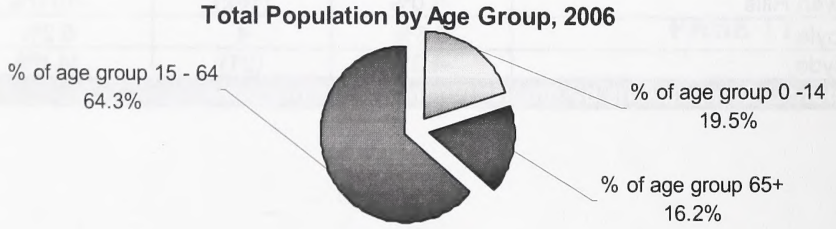
DEMOGRAPHICS

According to Statistics Canada census data, the North Central Region's population increased 2.0% from 2001 to 2006, or by 771 residents. This region's population accounts for 1.2% of the province's population.

Economic Indicators: North Central Region	
Land Area	**North Central**
Square Kilometers	13,780.0
% of Provincial Total	2.2%
Total Population	**North Central**
Population (000s), 2006 Census	39,836
% of Provincial Total	1.2%
Population (000s), 2001 Census	39,065
% of Provincial Total	1.3%
Population (000s), 1996 Census	39,078
% of Provincial Total	1.4%
Population Growth (%), 2001 - 2006	2.0%
Population Growth (%), 1996 - 2006	1.9%
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006	

Economic Indicators: North Central Region			
Population Components	**2006**	**2001**	**1996**
Age Group: 65+ (%)	16.2	15.4	14.2
Age Group: 0 - 14 (%)	19.5	20.8	23.1
Dependency Ratio [1]	55.5	57.1	59.3
Old Age Dependency Ratio [2]	25.2	24.3	22.6
Males, Ages 0 -14 (%)	20.2	21.5	23.5
Females, Ages 0 - 14 (%)	18.8	20.3	22.6
Males, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	64.5	63.8	63.1
Females, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	64.2	63.5	62.2
Males, Ages 65+ (%)	15.5	14.7	13.4
Females, Ages 65+ (%)	17.0	16.2	15.3
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006			

Total Population by Age Group, 2006



IMMIGRATION – PERMANENT RESIDENTS

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, in 2007, 20 immigrants selected a location in the North Central Region as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application form.

Please note: This figure does not include temporary foreign workers, students or temporary residents. Also, those that selected a certain province as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application are not required to move to the province indicated. This means that there could potentially be data missing due to immigrants indicating once province as their destination and then actually moving to another.

The annualized percentage growth from 1997 to 2007 for the North Central Region was -6.2%. The annualized percentage growth from 1997 to 2007 for Alberta was 4.8%. The total change for the North Central Region was -25.9% (-7) between 2002 and 2007and 47.4% (-18) between 1997 and 2007.

Economic Indicators: North Central Region	
Immigrants, CIC (Permanent Residents) [3]	**North Central**
As of December 31, 1997	38
% of Province	0.3%
As of December 31, 1998	32
% of Province	0.3%
As of December 31, 1999	24
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2000	29
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2001	37
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2002	27
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2003	27
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2004	42
% of Province	0.3%
As of December 31, 2005	31
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2006	37
% of Province	0.2%
As of December 31, 2007	20
% of Province	0.1%
Annualized Percentage Growth, 1997 - 2007, 10 years[4]	**-6.2%**
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Landing File	

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

According to Statistics Canada's census data, the North Central Region's employment rate for the working age population of 15 years and older was 66.4% in 2006 and the participation rate was 68.7%.

Please note: Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions. Hence Statistics Canada Census 2001 and 2006 data was used for all labour force indicators in the Battle River Region (see note in below table.)

In 2006, the North Central Region's employment rate for the 15 to 24 year old age group was 63.4% and the participation rate was 66.7%. In the same year, the unemployment rate for the working age population of 15 years and older was 3.5% and the unemployment rate for the 15 to 24 year old age group was 5.2%. Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate of all provinces in 2006 at 3.4% - well below the national average of 6.3%

Between 2006 and 2007, the number of people employed in Alberta grew by 4.7% or by 88,700. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of people employed grew by about 289,000 or 17.2% in Alberta.

In 2007, Alberta made up 10.3% of Canada's working age population (15+ years), and the province created just under one-quarter or 23.2% of all new jobs in Canada. Alberta created nearly as many new jobs as Ontario (88,700 vs 101,100), which has more than three times the working age population of Alberta.

Economic Indicators: North Central Region		
Labour Force Characteristics[5]	**2006***	**2001***
Population: 15+ (000s)	31.5	30.1
Labour Force: 15+ (000s)	21.6	21.1
Employment: 15+ (000s)	20.9	20.0
Unemployment: 15+ (000s)	0.7	1.1
Participation Rate: 15+ (%)	68.7	70.0
Unemployment Rate: 15+ (%)	3.5	5.1
Employment Rate: 15+ (%)	66.4	66.5
Participation Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	66.7	68.1
Unemployment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	5.2	9.7
Employment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	63.4	61.5
Source: Statistics Canada Census, 2001 and 2006.		

Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions, for the following reasons. First, there are no population control totals for special geographies such as these regions. Second, some of the smaller regions have small sample size, leading to greater volatility in the estimates. Third, Statistics Canada periodically redesigns its survey methodology; the latest redesign was done in 2005. Because of these data problems, Census data for 2001 and 2006 were used for all indicators for the smaller regions, and data for these indicators for the other years are not included.
**Census estimate*

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

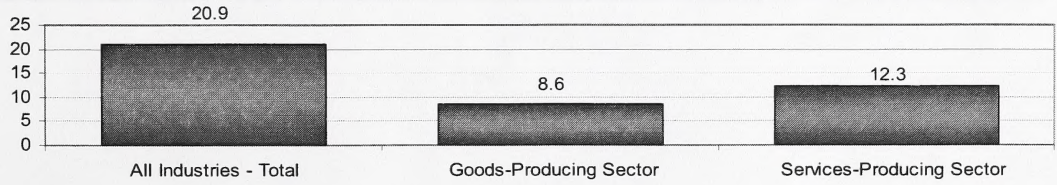
In 2006, according to Statistics Canada's census, the services-producing sector in the North Central Region accounted for about 59% of the total number employed.

The Agriculture and Forestry industry continued to have the largest number of individuals employed. This industry is followed by the Retail Trade, Healthcare and Social Assistance, Mining and Oil and Gas, and Education industries.

Economic Indicators: North Central Region		
Employment by Industry[6]	**2006***	**2001***
Total Employment – All Industries	**20.9**	**20.0**
Goods-Producing Sector	**8.6**	**8.7**
Agriculture & Forestry	3.6	4.5
Mining & Oil & Gas	1.8	1.1
Utilities	0.2	0.1
Construction	1.7	1.6
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4
Services-Producing Sector	**12.3**	**11.3**
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7
Retail Trade	1.9	2.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1.1	1.0
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	0.6	0.5
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	0.5	0.4
Business, Building & Other Support Services	0.6	0.5
Educational Services	1.8	1.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	1.8	1.6
Information, Culture & Recreation	0.4	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	0.9	1.1
Other Services	1.2	0.9
Public Administration	0.8	0.7
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006, 2001		

Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions. Hence, Statistics Canada Census 2001 and 2006 data were used for all labour force indicators in the North Central Region.

Employment by Industry, North Central, 2006 (In '000s)



INCOME, TAXFILER

In 2006, the average individual income for all taxfilers for the North Central Region was $26,470, an 8.6% increase from 2005. The percentage of taxfilers that reported an individual gross income of $100,000 and over was 3.9%.

Economic Indicators: North Central Region			
Individual Income[7]	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**
Average Individual Income ($)	26,470	24,365	21,840
Income Range		%	
Negative Claims (Includes $0)	25.9%	25.0%	25.9%
$1 - $20,000	30.1%	32.9%	34.7%
$20,000 - $40,000	19.2%	19.4%	19.0%
$40,000 - $60,000	10.7%	10.2%	9.6%
$60,000 - $80,000	6.8%	6.3%	5.8%
$80,000 - $99,999	3.4%	3.3%	2.7%
$100,000+	3.9%	3.0%	2.4%
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

In 2006, the average couple (defined as married or common law) income for all taxfilers for the North Central Region was $77,395, a 10.8% increase from 2005. The percentage of taxfilers that defined themselves as a couple and reported an income of $100,000 and over was 25.0%.

Economic Indicators: North Central Region			
Couple Income[7]	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**
Average Couple Income ($)	77,395	69,870	63,980
Income Range		%	
Negative Claims (Includes $0)	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
$1 - $20,000	6.8%	7.8%	9.9%
$20,000 - $40,000	21.9%	25.0%	26.5%
$40,000 - $60,000	16.9%	18.3%	18.4%
$60,000 - $80,000	16.1%	16.0%	16.7%
$80,000 - $99,999	12.9%	12.1%	11.2%
$100,000+	25.0%	20.3%	16.9%
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

INVESTMENT

In 2007, the total building permits value for the North Central Region increased by 28.7% from 2006 to an estimated $118.3 million, more than double the 10-year average of $53.4 million. Between 2006 and 2007, the residential building permit value for the North Central Region increased by 60.9% to $80.1 million.

In 2007, the number of total housing starts in the North Central Region increased by 3.8% from 2006 to 441 units. The 2007 number of starts was nearly double the 10-year average of 223. In 2007, the number of single family housing starts in the North Central Region increased by 83.5% from 2006 to 367 units.

Economic Indicators: North Central Region			
Building Permit Values and Housing Starts (2007)	**2007**	**2006**	**2005**
Total Building Permit Value ($000s)	118,296	91,908	46,854
% of Provincial Total	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%
Per Capita Building Permit Value ($) [8]	2,970	2,307	1,199
Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 5-year average (2003 - 2007)	69,394		
Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 10-year average (1998 - 2007)	53,421		
Commercial Building Permit Value ($000s)	21,519	26,885	9,101
Commercial % of Total Building Permit Value	18.2%	29.3%	19.4%
% of Provincial Commercial Building Permit Value	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%
Industrial Building Permit Value ($000s)	6,370	2,499	1,899
Industrial % of Total Building Permit Value	5.4%	2.7%	4.1%
% of Provincial Industrial Building Permit Value	0.7%	0.2%	0.2%
Institutional Building Permit Value ($000s)	1,322	7,173	1,334
Institutional % of Total Building Permit Value	1.1%	7.8%	2.8%
% of Provincial Institutional Building Permit Value	0.2%	0.7%	0.1%
Residential Building Permit Value ($000s)	89,085	55,351	34,520
Residential % of Total Building Permit Value	75.3%	60.2%	73.7%
% of Provincial Residential Building Permit Value	1.0%	0.7%	0.6%
Single Family Housing Starts	367	200	194
Single Family Housing Starts, 5-year average (2003 - 2007)	201		
Single Family Housing Starts, 10-year average (1998 - 2007)	167		
Total Housing Starts	441	425	234
Total Housing Starts, 5-year average (2003 - 2007)	283		
Total Housing Starts, 10-year average (1998 - 2007)	223		
Source: Statistics Canada, Compilation by Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES

In 2007, 64.4% of all business establishments with employees in the North Central Region were classified in the services-producing sector which includes such industries as Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, and Public Administration.

From 2006 to 2007, the number of establishments with employees in the North Central Region declined by 2.6% (a loss of 50 establishments). Between 2002 and 2007, the number of establishments with employees for all industries in the North Central Region fell by 66 establishments.

From 2006 to 2007, the goods-producing sector in the North Central Region had a net decrease of 7.6% or 55 establishments. Over the same period, the services-producing sector in the North Central Region had a net increase of 0.4% or 5 establishments.

Economic Indicators: North Central Region

Establishment with Employees[9]	2007	2006	2002	1 Year % Change	5 Year % Change
Total All Industries	**1,868**	**1,918**	**1,934**	**-2.6%**	**-3.4%**
Total Goods Industries	**665**	**720**	**710**	**-7.6%**	**-6.3%**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	227	289	303	-21.5%	-25.1%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	119	126	99	-5.6%	20.2%
Utilities	8	2	2	300.0%	300.0%
Construction	241	241	236	0.0%	2.1%
Manufacturing	70	62	70	12.9%	0.0%
Total Service Industries	**1,203**	**1,198**	**1,224**	**0.4%**	**-1.7%**
Wholesale Trade	91	75	85	21.3%	7.1%
Retail Trade	215	195	200	10.3%	7.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	164	161	174	1.9%	-5.7%
Information and Cultural Industries	10	10	15	0.0%	-33.3%
Finance and Insurance	34	33	33	3.0%	3.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	50	56	45	-10.7%	11.1%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	117	144	129	-18.8%	-9.3%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	17	24	31	-29.2%	-45.2%
Administrative, Waste Management and Remediation	62	58	65	6.9%	-4.6%
Educational Services	12	16	9	-25.0%	33.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	99	100	106	-1.0%	-6.6%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	23	24	23	-4.2%	0.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	84	84	100	0.0%	-16.0%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	212	203	193	4.4%	9.8%
Public Administration	13	15	16	-13.3%	-18.8%

Source: 2007 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

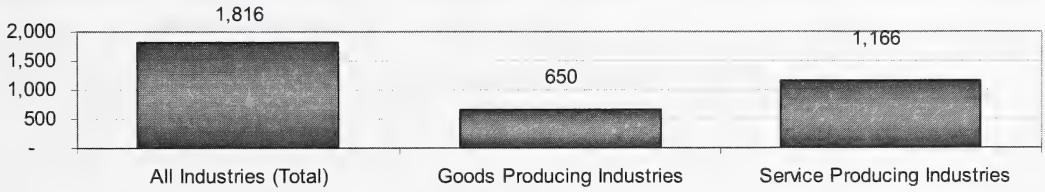
SMALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

In 2007, 97.2% of all business establishments in the North Central Region were classified as small business (businesses that have between 1 and 49 employees). The Construction industry had the largest number of small businesses, followed by Agriculture and Forestry, Retail Trade and Other Services.

From 2006 to 2007, the total number of small business establishments in the North Central Region declined by 2.3% (a net loss of 43 establishments). From 2002 to 2007, the region had a 3.4% decline in the total number of small business establishments with employees (a net loss of 64 establishments).

Economic Indicators: North Central Region					
Small Business Establishments[10] (1 - 49 employees)	2007	2006	2002	1 Year % Change	5 Year % Change
Total All Industries	1,816	1,859	1,880	-2.3%	-3.4%
Total Goods Industries	650	703	697	-7.5%	-6.7%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	226	289	301	-21.8%	-24.9%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	116	121	98	-4.1%	18.4%
Utilities	8	2	2	300.0%	300.0%
Construction	238	236	234	0.8%	1.7%
Manufacturing	62	55	62	12.7%	0.0%
Total Service Industries	1,166	1,156	1,183	0.9%	-1.4%
Wholesale Trade	89	75	84	18.7%	6.0%
Retail Trade	210	192	198	9.4%	6.1%
Transportation and Warehousing	161	156	173	3.2%	-6.9%
Information and Cultural Industries	10	10	15	0.0%	-33.3%
Finance and Insurance	33	31	31	6.5%	6.5%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	50	53	44	-5.7%	13.6%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	117	143	126	-18.2%	-7.1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	17	20	31	-15.0%	-45.2%
Administrative, Waste Management and Remediation	62	57	62	8.8%	0.0%
Educational Services	8	12	5	-33.3%	60.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	86	90	94	-4.4%	-8.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	22	24	23	-8.3%	-4.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	81	82	96	-1.2%	-15.6%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	211	201	192	5.0%	9.9%
Public Administration	9	10	9	-10.0%	0.0%
Source: 2007 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance and Enterprise					

Small Business (1 - 49 Employees) Establishement Count, 2007



INVENTORY OF MAJOR PROJECTS

As of December 31, 2008, there were 7 projects in the North Central Region that were proposed, planned, under construction or recently completed.

The total value for these 7 projects for region was $157.5 million. The largest projects are in the institutional and infrastructure sectors.

Please note: 2008 and 2007 can not be compared because some projects are carried over several years and there is only one cost available for the entire project

Economic Indicators: North Central Region				
Major Construction Projects, As of December 31 [11]				
	Projects		**Value ($millions)**	
Industry Sector	**2008**	**2007**	**2008**	**2007**
Forestry and Related	1	1	$40.0	$7.0
Infrastructure	2	4	$45.2	$114.3
Institutional	2	4	$47.3	$67.1
Pipelines	1	3	$9.0	$40.0
Tourism/Recreation	1	0	$16.0	$0.0
TOTAL	**7**	**12**	**$157.5**	**$228.4**
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Inventory of Major Alberta Projects				

1. This inventory lists projects in Alberta, valued at $5 million or greater, which have recently been completed, are currently under construction, or are proposed to start construction within two years. Not all projects over this threshold are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at time of printing.
2. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Although, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent/developer, users of the Inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent/developer.
3. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of the project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years.
4. The costs of projects listed in the inventory are estimated values only.

Economic Indicator Definitions

1 Dependency Ratio – The percentage of the population below the age of 15 (Child) and over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 – 64). This is the population of children and elderly that are dependent on the adult population for economic needs.

2 Old Age Dependency Ratio – The percentage of the population over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 - 64).This is the population that is dependent on the adult population for economic needs.

3 Permanent Immigrants – Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) count of where immigrants are landing within the province of Alberta. This includes spouses, dependents, entrepreneurs, investors, self employed, refugees and family sponsorship. This does not take into account those that land in other Canadian provinces and then move to Alberta.

4 Annualized Percentage Growth, 1997 - 2007, 10 Years (%) – The average annual increase in immigrants over the 10 year period.

5 Labour Force Characteristics – Drawn from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) or from the Census. The LFS is the source of current, monthly, and annual estimates of total employment (including self-employment) and unemployment. Allocating existing LFS respondents to Economic Indicator Regions results in insufficient data for certain regions (i.e. Insufficient sample sizes).

LABOUR FORCE: Persons who are 15 years or over that were not institutional residents that were either employed or unemployed for the year. Labour Force = Employed + Unemployed.

PARTICIPATION RATE: Number of persons from the Labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. Participation Rate = (Labour Force / Population 15 years and over)*100.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. Unemployment Rate = (Unemployed / Labour Force)*100.

EMPLOYMENT RATE: Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. Employment Rate = (Employed / Population 15 years and over)*100.

6 Employment by Industry – Based on the LFS or Census data. Industry and occupation codes are assigned using the respondent's job description on the questionnaire. Codes assigned are based on the classifications described in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002).

7 Income (2006)
Individual Income: Gross income for individuals filing income tax in Alberta in 2006.
Couple Income: Gross income for people that defined themselves as married or common law when filing the income tax in Alberta in 2006.

8 Per Capita Building Permit Value ($) – Total value of building permits for a region divided by its population.

9 Establishments with Employees – Business establishments are presented by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industry codes. Commercial industries are included as are several in the public sector (schools, universities, hospitals, government offices, churches, service clubs, etc.)

10 Small Business Establishments – Business establishment with less than 49 employees and at least one employee. This does not include individuals that are self-employed.

11 Major Projects – As of December 2008, a list of major development projects in Alberta that are valued at $5 million or more that are planned, currently under construction or recently completed. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Updated information is added monthly, print edition is updated quarterly.

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- Alberta's International Merchandise Exports
- Facts on Alberta
- Highlights of the Alberta Economy
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Monthly Economic Review
- Place-to-Place Price Comparison Survey

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